



Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park

Newsletter

Another Successful Summer!

Blackstone River Valley
National Historical Park
staff can be contacted at the
following partner locations:

Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc.
670 Linwood Avenue
Whitinsville, MA 01588
401-595-8394

Slater Mill Historic Site
67 Roosevelt Avenue
Pawtucket, RI 02860
401-428-3817

nps.gov/BLRV
fb.com/BlackstoneNPS
blrv_info@nps.gov

Meghan Kish
Superintendent



It was an amazing summer filled with a rich variety of events, walks, talks and programs. Along with our

traditional Thursday night Walkabouts, we launched a series of Saturday and Sunday programs featuring family-

friendly events including nature journaling and trail hikes through the Blackstone Gorge and the Hopedale Parklands. The rangers and our partners presented over a dozen new programs this summer as we continue to uncover new stories and think of new ways to share the beauty of the Blackstone River Valley. Thank you for a great summer!

Bay State Legacy Award



In June, Park Ranger Chuck Arning was honored with the Bay State Legacy Award by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. This award recognizes Chuck's contributions to preserving and telling the stories of the

historic sites of the Blackstone River Valley, particularly his work conducted in partnership with local historical societies, museums, and historic sites. Congratulations Chuck, and our thanks for all of your great work.

From Blackstone Valley to the Aleutian Islands

Did you know that our Volunteer Coordinator Josh Bell also works for the Aleutian World War II National Historical Area in Alaska? Usually he conducts his Alaska work remotely, but this summer Josh traveled to Alaska to take part in the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Dutch Harbor. Check out

some highlights of that great event here at go.nps.gov/75AnniversaryDutchHarbor. Join us at the Little Red Shop on November 8 at 6:30 PM to hear Josh talk about Blackstone's connection to the Aleutians - Naval Combat artist Lieutenant Commander William F. Draper of Hopedale.



FIND YOUR PARK

New Faces at the Park



Aneshia Savino is the new Administrative Assistant for Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, and Roger Williams National Memorial. She graduated from the University of New Mexico in 2010 with a degree in Anthropology where she studied settlement patterns and material culture. After working with various art and farming co-ops in New Mexico, she returned to Massachusetts in 2016 where she spent the summer and fall at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park as a Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern. She can be reached at Aneshia_Savino@nps.gov.



Lauren D'Elia is a graduate of Roger Williams University with a degree in American Studies. Her love for history and community involvement led to her volunteering at Roger Williams National Memorial, where she went on to accept an internship position through AmeriCorps and the Student Conservation Association. She is now a seasonal Park Ranger at Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park and Roger Williams National Memorial. Lauren looks forward to being a part of the continuing story in the Blackstone River Valley.



Dan McCarthy is the new Facility Manager for Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, and Roger Williams National Memorial. He served as the Acting Facility Manager for the three parks in 2015, during which time he assisted with developing a comprehensive facility maintenance program. Dan left a position at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, where he previously worked for the last 15 years. He can be reached at Dan_McCarthy@nps.gov.

Engaging with Communities

Bringing the Community Together with the Solar Eclipse



On August 21, we joined up with our partners at Massachusetts DCR to host a Solar Eclipse viewing at Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge, MA. It was a



fantastic day with over 750 people coming out to enjoy the show. Park staff passed out 650 pairs of free eclipse viewing glasses, and we awarded dozens of special Eclipse Junior Ranger badges.



We had so much fun that we are already planning for the next eclipse on April 4, 2024 when there will be over 90% coverage of the sun in parts of the Blackstone River Valley. Mark your calendars now!

Stay Connected!

Follow us on Facebook!

Yes, it's true! If you want to learn the latest park news, event weather updates, or about pop-up programs, it's really easy. All you have to do is follow us on Facebook. In addition to programming updates, you'll find interesting historical vignettes and photos of the Blackstone River Valley

and information about our many park partners. Finally, you don't want to miss the comments from our loyal followers, both informative and insightful and always helping us find ways to improve.

fb.com/BlackstoneNPS



Did you know all 4th graders can get their very own park pass?

1 Sign up at Everykidinapark.gov

2 Get your Pass!



3 Plan your trip

4 Hit the road and Find Your Park!



What's Happening in the Park?

Interpretive Wayside Project Update

Park staff has been working with partners and contractors to create a network of over 30 new wayside panels to be installed throughout the park. These signs will introduce visitors to each of the park sites and will help us tell the stories of the Blackstone River Valley. One of the most

exciting components of this project is that we have hired an artist to create seven new illustrations depicting various aspects of the Valley story. Currently, we are finishing up the design phase and, after partner review and fabrication, look to have signs in the ground in 2018.



Upcoming Events!



September 15 — Night Sky Program

7:30 PM at River Bend Farm 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge

September 16 — Biodiversity Festival

8:00 AM at Kelly House 1075 Lower River Road, Lincoln

September 23 — National Fishing Day - Fish Responsibly™

10:00 AM at Kelly House 1075 Lower River Road, Lincoln

September 23 — Rocks & Locks - Explore Trails to Goat Hill Lock from a Different Perspective

11:00 AM at River Bend Farm 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge

September 30 — Bike Your Park Day with a Park Ranger

10:00 AM at Kelly House 1075 Lower River Road, Lincoln

October 20 — Night Sky Program

6:30 PM at River Bend Farm 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge

November 8 — World War II in the Aleutian Islands & the Drapers of Hopedale

6:30 PM at Little Red Shop, Hopedale Street, Hopedale

Biodiversity Festival - A Day of Discovery



Join us on Saturday, September 16, for the second annual Biodiversity Festival. No matter your age or expertise, the Biodiversity Festival offers something for you. Bring your curiosity and expect to have

lots of fun while learning new things about your national park. Explorers will look for and identify wild mushrooms, track what happens to water once it goes down your drain, and interact with live animals.

Start your day off with yoga in the park at 8:00 AM and get ready for a day of discovery! For a full listing of programs visit us on Facebook at [fb.com/BlackstoneNPS](https://www.facebook.com/BlackstoneNPS).

For more information about the park and our public programs, including cancellations due to weather, please check the park's website nps.gov/BLRV and facebook page at [fb.com/BlackstoneNPS](https://www.facebook.com/BlackstoneNPS).

GO! and Get Lost in the Blackstone River Valley

The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (BHC) invites you to explore our exceptional National Heritage Corridor during September as the 25 cities and towns of the Blackstone Heritage Corridor roll out the welcome mat with their GO! program. Communities host

free, guided experiences and entertaining special events all month long. Join us for walks, bike tours, performances, harvest traditions and more! For more information, visit: blackstoneheritagecorridor.org/happening-now/blackstone-heritage-corridors/



Partner Spotlight

Megan DiPrete, Executive Director, Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc., Whitinsville, MA



What does it mean to have the new national park within the boundary of the Blackstone Heritage Corridor?

There is an extraordinary quality of life here, particularly the ability to access urban opportunity, natural experiences, cultural enrichment, historical education and recreational opportunity. The Corridor communities recognize and enthusiastically protect the value of these resources and the ability of those most intact areas to communicate the stories of America's Industrial Revolution. The entire National Heritage Corridor provides context for the specific stories that the "nodes" of the new park highlight.

What's the buzz that you are hearing about the new national park?

The shape of the land we see today has evolved from the historical land use patterns of the Blackstone River Valley. What is important and demonstrated so well in the Blackstone River Valley is that there is a strong network of partners to actively steward those resources and continue to work with the National Park Service to establish active programming within the boundary of the new park. The region is learning the process of establishing a park within a dynamic landscape.

What will the Blackstone Valley look like in five years because of the partnership between the Corridor and the National Historical Park?

There is a wonderful synergism forming whereby volunteers and visitors alike view the nodes as focal points for elements of the stories of the entire National Heritage

Corridor. Ultimately Blackstone Heritage Corridor, the National Park Service, volunteers and others will be demonstrating how best to maximize and preserve public investment in the region by combining efforts where possible and by complimenting efforts at all times. Volunteers will have additional opportunity to hone and develop skills and topics about which they are passionate – whether the activities are associated with the national heritage corridor or specialized interpretation offered within the nodes of the national historical park, there is the opportunity to excite others with information about a particular person/place/topic and relate that information to the broader context of the entire Blackstone River Valley and the National Heritage Corridor.



**Blackstone
Heritage
Corridor, Inc.**

Volunteer Call to Action

Join Our Amazing Volunteer Crew!

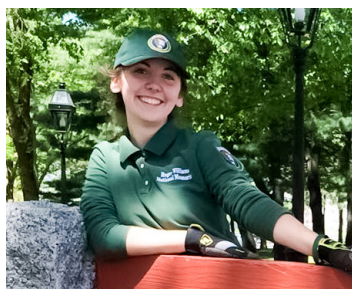


This fall the park is seeking volunteers to help in a number of ways. If you're interested in giving tours to school kids, reporting on events throughout the park, like being outside in nature, keeping our historic landscapes trash-free, or delving into community history, we have great volunteer opportunities for you. If you didn't see something that spoke to

you, let us know. We're happy to work with people who want to give back to their communities. For more information about volunteering in the new Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, please contact: Josh Bell at Joshua_Bell@nps.gov or Suzanne Buchanan at Sbuchanan@blackstoneheritagecorridor.org

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteer Jane Barnes



Jane Barnes is a student at the University of Rhode Island majoring in History. Jane began volunteering for Blackstone and the Roger Williams National Memorial last fall through a University of Rhode Island internship program. In the past year, Jane did archival research on the history of the barn

at Blackstone River State Park. Her research will help us interpret a replica barn being constructed this fall in a project led by partner BHC. Jane's passion for local history and connecting with the public are greatly appreciated. Jane just began a new SCA internship with us in August.